



eNews Capsule

New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Education
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President's Message

This month we had our annual October board meeting in Latham, NY at the Century House Hotel. For those of you who are not familiar with the board or may be new members, we get together as an executive board three times a year typically in October, February and May. At these meetings our elected board members report on their activities and the committee chairs report on their progress. Everyone submits a board report and we review them to see what issues are most pressing for NYS AFCSE. Dawn Scagnelli also gives us an in-depth State Ed. report.

At the October board meeting the big topic was the start of a long term strategic action plan for our organization. This is something that Barb Mikler-Crandon started with her presidency and I have continued. We used the results of two surveys to guide us in our work. The first survey was the members survey that Christine Bunn and Ann Sicheri developed, and the second was a board member survey that Barb Mikler-Crandon and I adapted from existing work.

Using the results from this work the board had a work session on Saturday morning and started a rough draft of our strategic action plan. Christine Bunn and I will complete the draft and will present it to the board for further work before the March 2014 meeting. We are working toward finalizing our plan at the May meeting.

While some of the board members worked on the strategic action plan, the area coordinators had their own extended meeting where they were able to skype with our webmaster and work on issues specifically pertaining to their positions as area coordinators. Be sure to check out the website to see what is happening in your area. You may also

want to look at neighboring areas to see what is going on there.

We currently need to fill a few positions on the board. Please take a look at the list below and see if you can serve in some capacity.

Website content specialist coordinator: This specialist will monitor and oversee content placement on the website to make it a viable resource for our members. The content specialist will look for new and updated content for the website and will be the contact person for others whose job it is to place content on the site. The first job will be to work with the webmaster and president to determine what content will be placed under each tab for easier member access.

Webmaster: The new webmaster will apprentice for one year under our current webmaster to work with RL computing in keeping our website up to date and managing the more technical aspects of the website. They will also work with the website content specialist to manage the content of the website.

Awards Chair: The awards chair requests nominations for the NYS AFCSE Teacher of the Year from the area coordinators and assists them in making sure the nominations are complete. Nominations are then gathered and reviewed by the awards committee. The awards chair also manages the other NYS AFCSE awards and keeps the award rubrics up to date with the applications. The chair also presents the awards at the annual banquet.

Finance: Our current finance person has been working tirelessly to get our budget in line and we need someone to continue her work. This job involves collecting budget forms from the board members and compiling them into a budget for NYS AFCSE.

Constitution: Our constitution has been edited and is in its final stages of revision. We need someone to continue this task.

NYSUT: This job is for a union involved person.

PR Marketing: We need someone to help us keep up with all the press we have been getting and to help us create some of our own marketing and press releases.

Please consider filling one of these very important positions. Area coordinators have complete job descriptions. A list of area coordinators can be found on NYS AFCSE.org.

I hope you are all having a great school year and continue to put your best foot forward as you represent the CTE-FACS profession.

Constance Costley, NYSAFCSE President
conniebv@hotmail.com

Member Survey Update

As mentioned in last month's eNews Capsule, the NYSAFCSE Executive Board is developing a comprehensive strategic plan that will direct, invigorate, and transport our membership and profession into the 21st Century ensuring that NYSAFCSE is meeting the needs of professionals who deliver Family and Consumer Sciences courses.

In response to this activity, Christine Bunn and Ann Sicheri created a member survey that asked a broad range of questions intended to assist in the development of the plan. The results of the survey were compiled and presented to board members at the October 18th NYSAFCSE Board Meeting in Albany.

We wish to sincerely thank those of you who participated in the survey and for making your voice heard. Your participation assists leadership in making sound decisions about how to best support you in your role as a CTE: Family and Consumer Sciences professional. More information will follow as the survey details are analyzed and plans are put in place.

2014 Conference Help Needed

We are still in need of help with the Unified FCS Conference in October 2014. If you are interested in helping please contact Jane More at jmore223@gmail.com

Watch your Monday memo for a complete list of available positions.

Marge Jock Memorial Fund

It has come to our attention that some members have had mail returned to them for donations sent in memory of Marge Jock. The death notice in the paper did not contain the correct corporate mailing address for donations. The correct information is as follows: Checks payable to *Sarah and Abby's Education Fund* c/o Empower Federal Credit Union, 1 Member Way, Syracuse, NY 13212.



E-Textiles: FACS Educators Bring New Technology to their Students

As educators, we hear daily about the importance of exposing students to the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Since the Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) field was established to translate research in the sciences to information that can be used to benefit individuals and their families, FACS educators have a natural connection to STEM. Advances in electronic, or e-textiles, provide an interesting STEM connection for the FACS classroom.¹

An electronic textile allows little bits of computation to occur on the body. E-textiles incorporate networking capabilities for sensing (biometric or external), communicating (usually wireless), power transmission, and interconnection within a fabric. They usually contain conductive yarns, such as strands of silver or stainless steel, to enable electrical conductivity. The textiles are created using traditional textile manufacturing techniques: spinning, weaving, knitting, embroidering, sewing, and printing with inks.

¹ National FACS Learning Standard 16.4.4: Analyze current technology and trends that facilitate design and production of textile, apparel, and fashion products

E-textiles are sometimes referred to as smart fabrics and are of great interest to the military, to the health fields, and to fashion. For example, the military's interest is in interactive camouflage and in e-textiles that can heal wounded soldiers. The health field is researching "second skins" that can adapt both to the environment and to the needs of the individual. In the fashion industry, designers are pursuing a vision of clothing that can express aspects of people's personalities, needs, and desires through the use of conductive yarns and fibers for power delivery, communication, and networking.

Middle school FACS teacher, Jami Robinson, in the Thompson School District, Loveland, Colorado has earned a \$1000 grant from the National Center for Women and Technology to pilot a four-week e-textiles learning experience. The pilot will begin in January 2014 and is supported by research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Colorado. The FACS teachers in the district will "teach students the science behind the circuitry and computer components they'll be working with, as well as basic programming, or coding, and hand-sewing skills."² The students will begin with a book-mark project which incorporates an LED light, a computer chip, and conductive thread sewn into felt (See "bee" above). The beauty of this project is that it takes STEM concepts beyond the traditional robotics and engineering courses. Students can see direct applications of STEM concepts to their lives. Projects such as this show the ever-evolving nature of our profession and the potential for sharing technological advances with our students. For a fascinating view of the range of applications for e-textiles, you may wish to Google e-textile images.

Regents Update

The CTE team did not have an item at the October 2013 meeting. You may wish to read the item regarding college preparation programs for school counselors entitled, "School Counseling Regulations." It is available at

² "Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers to Teach E-Textile Lessons in January 2014," Accessed at www.reporterherold.com/news/ci on 11/4/13

<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/meetings/2013Meetings/October2013/1013p12hed2.pdf>

You might consider becoming a member of the NYSED mailing list to receive "News and Notes" from the department. Each month features a message from Commissioner John King. Please see <http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001SaUdxCuRF01fmBTxBILeQQ%3D%3D> for more information.

As always, I'll keep you posted!

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eNews Position Opening

Terri Phillips, our "Pro" is officially retiring from this position. We will miss her insight and inspiration! We are in need of an experienced teacher to take over her monthly eNews column. The position requires writing the ten monthly eNews columns responding to questions submitted by our members. This is not a board position and doesn't require you to attend board meetings. For a more complete description of the position or more information contact Terri Philips.

Ask a Pro

With all the emphasis on Common Core there are lots of questions on how to best remind people of the importance of FACS and how we help students master many of these Core skills.

One expression used in marketing is, "Timing is everything". **Now** is a good time to promote, promote, promote. FACS has been in the media a lot lately with articles in the *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe* and the discussion on "Good Morning America" as well as several well known blogs. In case you're wondering how you can keep up with all this in the limited time you have, it's as easy as Facebook. Both NYSAFCSE

and AAFCs have FB pages that are updated regularly. They provide links to the various articles and shows so you can see them for yourself. It's easy to send an entire or partial article to your administrators with a note attached explaining what's going on in your classes.

There are also comments in some of the articles to the effect that critical life skills are some of the most important things to learn in school and that they prepare everyone for real life. Copy the ones you like and post them around your room or the hallway outside your door. Every student you have should know that the skills they learn in FACS are important to their present and future lives.

Budgets and costs always enter into decisions about program cuts. According to Jane Oates, the Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, "We have to make it clear that there is a difference between a frivolous expense and an investment. And the money that's put into career and technical education is an investment." We need to remind people that investing in FACS not only helps make students life ready (which is both college and career ready), helps students who are kinesthetic learners better understand math and other core skills, increase financial literacy, decrease the drop-out rate, lower teen pregnancy rates and make healthier decisions about food, drugs, and smoking, etc. as they navigate through the teenage years. Important investments all.

Consider submitting an article to your district newsletter. It might begin as follows: In light of all the recent news stories about "Home Economics" in schools, I thought you'd like to know what your students are learning in my classroom...." You can explain the name change and highlight the important skills students learn in FACS.

I was actually quite appalled that our discipline is still being called "Home Economics" with so many references to cooking and sewing — as if that's all we do. Although Robin Roberts corrected the commentator and said we're now called Family & Consumer Sciences, we've obviously still got a long way to go. If we all make the effort to tie into national media and get the word out locally about how vital FACS is, just think of the difference we can make!

Ask a Pro appears monthly. If you'd like information, suggestions or advice from a seasoned FACS veteran, just email phillip3@twcny.rr.com If you'd like an answer sooner than next month's issue, just ask. NYS AFCSE is there for YOU!

The *eNews Capsule* is edited by Ann Coleman and distributed by Barbara Mikler-Crandon. It is sent monthly to our paid membership. Interested teachers can join NYS AFCSE by contacting Kim DeHart, FACSmembership@nycap.rr.com

FAMILY AND
CONSUMER SCIENCES
SKILLS FOR LIFE

